

Juanita S. Miller
Mocahontas County
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Chapter 6 Religion

SLATY FORK METHODIST CHURCH

The members of this church use to worship in a small one room school building near the mouth of Slaty Fork creek. This building was sold and a larger better school built near the Old Field Fork of Elk River. When this building was also sold by the Board of Education of Maray District it was bid in by Ivan L. Sharp to be used as a place of worship. A deed was also made by the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Co. giving us a clear title to the land on which the building stood, to L. D. Sharp, Ivan L. Sharp, Jesse P. Hannah, Goldie Gay Hannah, and Hubert Hannah, Trustees.

In 1931-32 this building was completely remodeled into one of the most up to date country churches in this section of the State. It had S. S. rooms that open into the main auditorium, it has a basement, a hot air furnace, electricity, and the seats or pews are considered more comfortable than those in many of the large city churches, there is an administer rug on the pulpit, and there is both an organ and a piano. This church was designed or planned by Ivan L. Sharp and the carpenter work was done by H. H. Bright and his son. He also made the seats.

Rev. Tom Taylor was the pastor when the remodeling was done and the members at that time were Luther D. Sharp, Laura J. Sharp, Ivan L. Sharp, Genevieve Sharp, Silas S. Sharp, Paul Sharp, Vonda M. Sharp, Luther D. Sharp, Jr., Samuel D. Hannah, Emma Gibson, Archie Gibson, and a number of others who had not had their membership transferred to this church, also some who belonged to another denomination.

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The first money toward the remodeling was \$150. from the Ladies Aid Society with Mrs. Laura J. Sharp as President and booster of the movement for a better church, until her death in 1932, her funeral being about the first service in the new church. Although many others contributed liberally both in and out of the church, the Ladies Aid Society with Mrs. Genevieve Sharp as President assumed the last remaining \$50. needed in order that the church could be dedicated on June 7, 1936. Rev. D. R. Carder was the pastor at the time of dedication, and the dedicatory sermon was preached by the Superintendent of the Buchanan District Dr. J. L. Wells.

Some of the most active members of this congregation from 1902 to 1908 were Samuel Gibson, Georgie Hannah, James W. Jackson, Sarah Sharp, Luther D. Sharp, Laura Sharp, Amanda Sharp, Nettie Sharp, David Baughman, Bertha Hoover, Lena Sharp, Tolbert F. Sharp, Nettie Doyle, and Ada Sharp.

At present we have about 25 active members and 20 non-active.

The Trustees now are Luther D. Sharp, Jesse P. Hannah, Ivan L. Sharp, Oscar W. Kerr, and the fifth, Nelson Shreve recently died.

The present Stewards- Mrs. Vonda M. Sharp, Mrs. Goldie Gay Kerr, and Paul L. Sharp. Paul L. Sharp is disbursing steward, and Ivan L. Sharp is recording steward.

Mrs Goldie Gay Kerr is an Exhorter and charge Lay Leader.
Ivan L. Sharp, Lay Delegate of W. V. Conference
Oscar W. Kerr, Reserve Delegate " " " "
Luther D. Sharp, Trier of Appeals " "

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Some of the main church workers at present are Kingsley Morrison, Mattie Morrison, Luther D. Sharp, Mabel E. Sharp, Ivan L. Sharp, Genevieve Sharp, Oscar W. Kerr, Goldie Gay Kerr, Ethel Eye, Paul L. Sharp, Vonda M. Sharp, Jesse P. Hannah, Lelah Hannah, and others, some whose membership are elsewhere.

We have Sunday School the year through since 1915. Before that time we some times closed for the winter.

Rev. R. H. Skaggs, the present pastor preaches on the second Sunday of each month at night and in the morning on the fourth Sunday.

We have prayer services on each Wednesday night. Ivan L. Sharp is class leader. There are 25 members active in Prayer Service. We have Epworth League each Sunday night. We elect officers every three months so as to encourage leadership. The Ladies Aid Society at the present time has only 10 members, but nevertheless it is a very active and efficient organization. The officers are Mabel Sharp, Flora Rineheart, Vonda Sharp and Alice Heflin.

Singing Association- Luther D. Sharp is the leader of this association. There are 20 in the class. We have regular practice, and we take part in community singing in many communities of the county and in singing conventions in other counties. We have duets, quartets, and many who play instrumental music. One outstanding member, Kingsley Morrison, can play hymns on a peach leaf, which has attracted a lot of attention. These community sings, and the Singing Association has been a great help to the church and to the community.

(Many communities of the county take part in this community singing)